

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2895

STATE FOR ANGEVINE EB/FTD

STATE PASS COMMERCE FOR SHEPHERD AND GAREL

STATE PASS LABOR FOR BLACKMAN AND JAMES

FROM SMITH

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: TEXTILES: CATEGORY CONSOLIDATION

1. YESTERDAY'S MEETING WITH INDUSTRY AND LABOR REPS RE CATE-
GORY CONSOLIDATION CANNOT BE THE FINAL WORD. TEPER'S THESIS
OF SEPARATING CERTAIN APPAREL ITEMS BY SEX HAS
SOME VALIDITY AND SHOULD BE FURTHER STUDIED. AT SAME TIME, USG
SHOULD NOT HESTIATE TO PURSUE INTER-FIVER MERGERS AS WE CANNOT
REALISTICALLY ADHERE TO CLAIM THAT A SUIT IS A SUIT IS A
SUIT WITHOUT REFLECTING THIS IN ANY CATEGORY CONSOLIDATION
WE FINALLY ADOPT. SMITH HAS TALKED TO KRAMER ON THIS, AND
KRAMER CONCURS, ADDING THAT WE NEED HAVE NO HARD AND FAST
RULES, I.E., WHERE INTER-FIVER MERGERS ARE APPROPRAITE, WE
SHOULD PURSUE IT IN COMBINATION WITH GENDER BREAKOUTS.

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2. SMITH BELIEVES THE CATEGORY CONSOLIDATION MATTER MUST
BE PURSUED VIGOROUSLY AND PROMPTLY, ESPECIALLY WITH HONG
KONG AND KOREAN BILATERALS NOW ON THE HORIZON. IT IS
NOT RPT NOT SOUND TO CONCLUDE THOSE BILATERALS WITHOUT
INCORPORATING WHATEVER CATEGORY CONSOLIDATION ULTIMATELY
AGREED UPON, AND SMITH WOULD PROPOSE THAT HE INFORMALLY
TELL MILLS OF HONG KONG OF OUR INTENTION TO ADDRESS THE

CATEGORY CONSOLIDATION PROBLEM IN SOME FORM.

3. IN SMITH'S VIEW IT IS OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE THAT SOME TEXTILE ITEMS PRESENTLY INJOYING SEPARATE CATEGORY STATUS BE DROPPED HENCEFORTH IN NEW OR RENEGOTIATED BILATERALS TO THE BASKET. COTTON FISH NETS AND RABBIT YARN ARE PRIME EXAMPLES, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE MAY BE, THROUGH THE EXISTING USG AND/OR LABOR/INDUSTRY CATEGORY PROPOSALS, REDUCING EXISTING BASKETS AND, THEREBY, REDUCING OUR NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY.

4. IN SMITH'S VIEW, PROPOSALS SUCH AS MADE BY THE DUPONT REP AT TUESDAY'S MEETING SHOULD AT THE MINIMUM BE RESISTED AND, HOPEFULLY, REJECTED. TO CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY WHAT HE SUGGESTED WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO IGNORING THE MFA PROVISIONS CALLING FOR FULL RPT FULL UTILIZATION OF QUOTAS. EVEN TEPER RECOGNIZED THAT.

5. IT IS CLEAR THAT IF CATEGORY CONSOLIDATION IN SOME FORM IS TO BE ADOPTED, THEN OUR STATISTICAL COMPILATIONS-- AT LEAST THE FORM--WILL DOUBTLESS NEED CHANGEING. KRAMER AND SMITH ASSUME DOC OFFICE OF TEXTILES CAN DO THIS AND, ESPECIALLY, IN TIME FOR THE HONG KONG MAY 2 BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. HENCE,CAN CITA HAVE AVAILABLE ON SMITH/KRAMER RETURN A REVISED PROPOSAL INCORPORATING ABOVE AND SUBSEQUENT TO THIS, WHEN CAN REVISED PROPOSAL BE DISCUSSED WITH ADVISORS (HOPEFULLY SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF HK BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS)?SORENSEN

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